

scorpion sting. Of these preparations Caius and Mhaskar write: 'None of the Indian Plant Remedies popularly used in the treatment of scorpion sting has been found to have any preventive, antidotal, or therapeutic effect'.

'I asked Fr. Caius what then could be done for scorpion stings. His answer confirmed the facts mentioned by Shri H. Abdulali in the preceding note. The most acute pain is felt in the nerve ganglia in the upper arm or upper leg. Fr. Caius informed me that, using a needle or even a pointed pencil, one should make a series of scratches (without cutting the skin) beginning from the point of greatest pain; from there the scratches are to be repeated about every inch downwards to the tip of the fingers or of the toes. The scratching of the skin distracts the attention of the sufferer, so that by the time the last scratch has been made near the tip of the arm or leg, the pain has disappeared.

'In my personal experience I have found that alcohol or methylated spirit, ammonia, or even kerosene oil applied to the hand or foot and allowed to evaporate may produce the same pain-killing effects.

'One thing should be kept in mind when stung by a scorpion. 'Scorpion sting is very rarely fatal; and thus scorpions are no more dangerous to human beings than bees or wasps.' (Caius & Mhaskar, p. 98). Some of the deaths recorded in the past as due to scorpion sting are in all probability mostly due to the vivid imagination of the sufferer. The maximum amount of venom found by Caius and Mhaskar in the common Indian scorpion, *Buthus tamulus*, was only 5.3 mg.; if the toxicity of the venom in relation to body weight was the same for man as for the very susceptible English rabbit, the total quantity mentioned above would not be lethal for a greater body-weight than 2.6 kg. Scorpion venom should then not be lethal to man, children not excepted'.—Eds.]

24. A NEW SPECIES OF MOLLUSC, *GULELLA*
RAMBHAENSIS, FROM RAMBHA IN ORISSA (GASTROPODA:
FAMILY STREPTAXIDAE)¹

(With one text-figure)

Gulella (*Huttonella*) *rambhaensis* sp. nov.

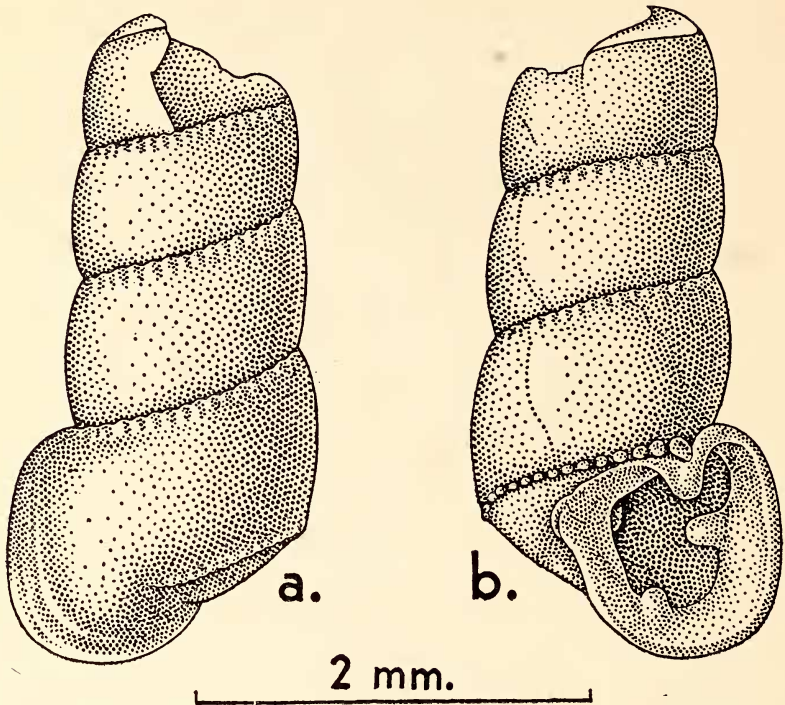
Material: One broken land shell found along with other specimens in debris lying on the beach of Rambha Bay of the Chilka

¹ Communicated by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Lake, Ganjam District, Orissa, about 0.4 km. west of Rambha Dak Bungalow and 4.8 metres above the water margin.

Though the spire is only partly broken, other essential parts which remained intact, such as bodywhorl, penultimate whorl, peristome and armature of the mouth, show the characteristic features of the genus *Gulella* Pfeiffer (1856). Besides, further study reveals such remarkable features as are seldom met with in any known species of this genus. Hence, I propose for it the new name *rambhaensis*.

Diagnosis: Shell tiny, fragile, perforate, cylindrically-turreted, dextral, smooth, polished but not shining, white (but it seems that the colour was pale cream when fresh), devoid of costulations; spire partly broken, but much narrower than in *G. bicolor* and its var. *barkudensis*; whorls only 4 (the rest, possibly 3 or 4, being entirely lost with the broken upper part of the shell), slightly convex, body-whorl adnate as in the above two (i.e. closely connected with the penultimate whorl, though not free), larger and produced outwards, greater in width than in length, distinctly carinate at the base—the carina ending a little before the extremity marked with 2 or 3 vertical lines of growth; sutures impressed and crenulate—crenulations appearing more prominent and bead-like on the ventral side of the last suture, but gradually diminishing in size while passing round the dorsum of the bodywhorl along the carina, and ultimately terminating with it at the base; peristome white, thickened, expanded, continuous, reflected, rounded at the base somewhat as in var. *barkudensis*, truncated above, outer margin more regularly curved and expanded in the absence of external fosset, and hence extending even beyond the general outline of the body of the shell itself; parietal lamina prominent and looking somewhat like the upper part of the human ear, and ascending just above the last suture only; actual orifice trilobed—the largest lobe median and lying on the columellar side, in between the parietal tooth above and the basal tooth at the left corner below, with the other two on the outer side, the smallest lobe lying above at the upper angle and the intermediate lobe at the lower angle in between the median outer marginal tooth (or palatal tooth) and the basal tooth; parietal and palatal teeth appearing more or less equally strong, basal tooth smaller and less strong than both, but columellar plica smallest of all, deep-seated, somewhat depressed and lying just behind the largest lobe on the throat of the columella; umbilicus only slit-like and concealed from view by the expanded peristome and hence should be carefully seen from a profile view.



Shell of *Gulella (Huttonella) ramblaensis* sp. nov., from Rambha, Orissa
(a) Dorsal view; (b) Ventral view.

Measurements:

(i) Length of the broken shell	...	...	3.2 mm.
(ii) Diameter of the broken shell (round the penultimate whorl)	..	...	1.3 mm.
(iii) Length of the bodywhorl	...	...	1.2 mm.
(iv) Diameter of the bodywhorl	...	...	1.7 mm.
(v) Length of the peristome	...	...	1.0 mm.
(vi) Diameter of the peristome	...	...	1.0 mm.
(vii) Length of the actual orifice	...	...	0.8 mm.
(viii) Diameter of the actual orifice	...	...	0.5 mm.

Type specimen: *Holotype.* Regd. No. M 16593/2, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Type locality: Beach of Rambha Bay of the Chilka Lake at Rambha, Ganjam District, Orissa. Coll. Dr. H. C. Ray. 6-1-55.

Remarks: The new species, *G. (H.) ramblaensis*, may be closely allied to *G. bicolor* (Hutton, 1834), the most widely distributed land snail originally known from Mirzapur, U.P., and its var. *barkudensis* (Annandale & Prashad, 1920) from the Barkuda Island in Chilka

Lake, Orissa, but differs markedly from both in having the shell perforate and its spire much narrower, bodywhorl slightly more produced outwards and carinate at the base, crenulations more prominent and bead-like on the ventral side of the last suture and continued even to the base along the carina, peristome continuous and its outer margin regularly curved and more extended outwards in the absence of external fosset. For further details about *G. bicolor*, the papers of Benthem Jutting (1950) and Blanford & Godwin-Austen (1908) may be consulted.

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REFERENCES

- Annandale, N. & Prashad, B. (1920): (*Testacellidae* and *Zonitidae*): 19-21.
Rec. Ind. Mus. 19(5): 189-191 (*E. bicolor*), 191-194 (var. *barkudensis*).
 Blanford, W. S. S. (1908): Pfeiffer, L. (1856): *Malakozool. Blatt.* 2: 173 (*Gulella*), 174 (*Huttonella* and species *bicolor*).
 H. H. (1908): *Fauna Brit. Ind.*, Moll.

25. ECTOPROCTAN-COELENTERATE ASSOCIATION: AN EXAMPLE OF UNPURPOSEFUL INQUILINISM?

While examining a catch of fishes for parasites I came across a specimen of the crustacean cymothoid isopod, *Nerocila trivittata* Bleeker, attached to the dorsal side of the fish *Otolithus argenteus*. The posterior part of the body of the parasite appeared to be covered with foreign matter which, on repeated washing, did not peel off. Consequently the specimen was examined under the microscope. What looked like dirt turned out to be an encrustation of the coelenterate hydroid, *Clytia gracilis*, with a close matting of an ectoproctan, amidst the horizontal stolons.

As observed by Dales (*Geological Society of America*, Mem. 67, p. 391, 1951) interpretation of commensalic associations is peculiarly susceptible to anthropomorphic bias, particularly because of the difficulty of applying experimental methods to determine the degree of dependence of the commensals. Hence exceptions, like the present, have importance.

Associations between animals and plants or between animals of widely different groups are described, often casually, as mutualism (symbiosis), commensalism, and inquilinism. Many sedentary animals,